



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A07080046

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A university¹ notified us that it had completed an inquiry and was initiating an investigation of an allegation that a professor² had plagiarized from his former graduate student and also a counter-allegation that the student³ and two other faculty members⁴ had plagiarized from the professor. The documents alleged to have contained the plagiarized material in both allegations cited NSF funding. We concurred with the need for investigation of both allegations and referred the investigations to the university. The university found that the professor and student had been named coauthors and that their respective contributions were not separable.

The university found no misconduct with respect to the graduate student and the two faculty members. The university found that the professor had committed plagiarism by using the majority of the coauthored text in a subsequent publication, omitting the student as a coauthor. The university imposed sanctions consisting of a letter of reprimand, training in the responsible conduct of research, senior faculty supervision of his mentorship of research students, and attestations to his department chair that his published work does not contain plagiarism.

We found the report accurate and complete and determined that the university followed reasonable procedures. The university's rationale appeared supported by the evidence and reasonable under its policies. Although the professor's actions raised serious concerns, the university's actions appear adequate and sufficient under the circumstances of the case to protect the interests of NSF and the federal government. We have written the professor to express our concerns regarding questionable research practices, such as duplicate publication.⁵

Accordingly, this case is closed.

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⁵ Duplicate publishing is the reuse of the same publication in two different places.